THE 2026 VIRGINIA AREA AL-ANON SPRING ASSEMBLY
MINUTES
May 16-17, 2026
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person DoubleTree, Midlothian, VA and Webex)

"Panel 65 -Connections and Growth Through Service: Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy"

GR and DR SESSIONS: Both took place in separate locations at 10:00 am.

S A T U R D A Y, May 16, 1:00 PM

GENERAL SESSION (Amanda R.)

- Serenity Prayer
- Assembly Purpose from the Service Manual, pg. 67.
- Welcome
- Remarks: Etiquette was explained. Stay on topic. All voices have a right to be heard. We have the Ask It Basket available for questions: There is an online link and a box in the room. There are other opportunities for service. Thanks to all who brought donations for the hospitality room.
- 12 Steps: read by Lisa S.
- 12 Traditions: read by Ava B.
- 12 Concepts of Service: read by Cindy L. (All say #4)
- Welcome to New Groups: Five new groups have opened since the Fall of 2025. Area updates include our new electronic voting method using the Slido App. There are 267 groups which include 247 English, 1 Farsi, 7 Spanish, and 12 Alateen. District 19 has the oldest meeting. The Convention date and location are now secured. Alateen SBARs are in the final drafting stage.
- Welcome to Past Delegates: Juanita, Terry W., Ellie, Duane, and Kathy were all present either in person or online. Past delegate Dee passed in December at 101 years old.
- Welcome to Trustees and Visitors: David B., Treasurer, Board of Trustees, and Kathy M., Chairman of the Board of Trustees, are here from WSO. Both will do a workshop on Links of Service. David will be our Spiritual Speaker on Sunday.
- Introductions of Officers, Coordinators, and Service Center Chairs: Treasurer Jessica is online. There is a need for the NVSC chair.

AREA DELEGATE'S REPORT PART 1 - (Laura L.) – Report is posted on Area Website. Please read for more details. Slideshow and pictures were shared.

- Opening: Laura recently attended the WSC in April as well as the 75th anniversary of Al-Anon. There are now 22,452 groups in the world in 135 different countries.
- Spiritual Component of the Conference: There was much attention given to the spiritual nature of the week.
- 2025 Financial Report: Total revenues were $6.6 million. Total expenses were $6.4 million. Of the revenues $3.6 million came from contributions and $3 million came from literature. An annual audit

indicated no concerns. Current costs per group amount to $358 for WSO services. The average group contribution in Virginia is $117. Remind your groups that we are fully self-supporting.

- New Service Manual is now available for 2026-2029 in paper and eBook and can be downloaded in pdf format.
- Technology: Plans are being made to update the WSO computer systems starting this month through 2028. New accounting software was expected to go live on May 1, 2026. The Website also needs redesign and updates for security. The Al-Anon mobile app now supports over 280,000 users.
- WSO Human Resources has two staff positions now open. Go to the website for information.
- Important Upcoming Dates:
  1. June 30 deadline for submitting sharing on Sponsorship. Release in 2028 at International.
  2. *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* magazine will be released in the fourth quarter.
  3. August 2026 eBooks will be rolled out in English, Spanish and French.
  4. Oct. 24 is the Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect in Chicago, Illinois.
  5. 2028 Al-Anon International Convention will be July 20-24 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Start saving for the estimated cost of $1776.
- Chosen Agenda Items: Delegates voted on two top areas of interest:
  1. Public Outreach: There will be 3 conventions this year. Reflections and Ideas for what members can do to help were shared. (See report for list of ideas.)
  2. Artificial Intelligence: There are two sides to this issue. One is addressing many concerns and the other is looking for the opportunities.

WORKSHOP FOR LINKS OF SERVICE – (David B. and Katherine M.) 1:45-2:45

The website has a link to the presentation. Both David and Kathy presented a thorough explanation of the Links of Service. See the service manual graphic on page 174. They described the different positions that go from GR, to DR, to Area, Area Information Services, to Delegate and WSC, to Trustees, and Staff. GRs are most important and provide the link to all the others. There are Spiritual Principles that guide Service. These are Cooperation, Participation, Responsibility, Singleness of Purpose, Unity and Common Welfare. They emphasized the difference between the Fellowship and the Organization. Finally, they talked about Tradition 7 and Letting it Begin with Me.

(BREAK TAKEN 2:45-3:05)

PRESENTATION OF NEW VOTING PROCEDURES (Amanda R. and Cheryl L.)

Announcements were made about Wi-Fi. A passcode is needed. (GRs also previously practiced voting at their morning session.) Procedures were shared and explained to the Assembly as well. The goal is alignment of in person and virtual attendees' votes. Due to electronic voting, there are changes to procedures in the order of the agenda. Presentation of the items comes first, followed by discussion. Roll calls and votes are done separately. Those with green lanyards (GRs) will come forward for the vote. During roll call, please do not leave the room. In person GRs will be called by District in ABC order. Virtual GRs will have a separate roll call in name order. The Webex meeting will then also be "locked". Please respond verbally.

Practice Voting

The Assembly then did a practice vote. There were a few problems with virtual members hearing instructions. Following that, Amanda presented procedures for making motions.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. **Fall 2025 Assembly Minutes (Martha R.)**
   Martha reported that the website link to the minutes is active. See website for the document. She called for any changes or corrections. There were none.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the minutes by Jan from District 6. It was seconded by Jannekin from District 29. See below for voting results.

2. **Treasurer's Report 1st Quarter (Jessica B.)**
   Jessica referred to the documents available on the website. We are in very good standing. There is $66,414 in the checking account. We have $28,014 in reserve (savings). There is $12,643 in an account for the Convention. The 2025 Tax return was completed. When groups send in money, please make sure you use the group number in addition to the group names. A question by Marsha S. referred to a typo under "INCOME". The date should be March 31, 2026, not 2023.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the 1st Quarter Treasurer's Report as corrected by Marsha S. from District 2. It was seconded by Mary S. from District 12. See below for voting results.

3. **2026 Budget Update (Jessica B.)**
   This item refers to updating the 2026 Budget which had previously been approved. One change was made to include Capital Expense Equipment. This adds $1250 this year to purchase and replace Area equipment such as laptops. Over three years this will amount to $3750. There were also a few questions about Webex, surplus funds, the Convention, and cost of maintaining the Website. Jessica and Wendy answered them. Amanda reminded the Assembly that we are just voting on the one change to the Budget that was made.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the 2026 Budget Update by Jan R. from District 6. It was seconded by Ellen C. from District 19. See below for voting results.

(Non-voting members moved to the back of the room and GRs came forward.)

ROLL CALL OF VOTING GRS (Martha R. and Chris B.)

Roll call was taken by Martha and Chris. In person and then virtual. In person attendees numbered 80 GRs. Virtual attendees numbered 23 GRs. There was a total of 103 voting GRs.

VOTING IN SLIDO

The process of voting on the motions took some time as it was the first official electronic voting at Assembly. There were some issues with connectivity which caused delays. A cheer erupted when all members got their votes in for the first time. These votes were approved by simple majority:

1. **Fall 2025 Assembly Minutes**: 103 voted with 97% approving. ***Motion passed.***
2. **Treasurer's Report 1st Quarter**: 100 voted with 100% approving. ***Motion passed.***
3. **2026 Budget Update**: 102 voted with 99% approving. ***Motion passed.***

DELEGATE REPORT PART 2 - (Laura L.) Laura continued with her report. See the report on the Website.

- Passing It On: This is a WSO Project that is reaching out to the next generation of those in service.
- International Service Structures: There have been meetings around the world every two years.
- **Group Naming Policy**: In 2024 the WSC voted to update the policy to be more inclusive. This meant removing identifiers from group names. Many appeals were sent in following the updated policy and implementation was paused to get more feedback. There was extensive discussion at this year's 2026 WSC. The result was that there was no clear path forward. A consensus was reached on implementation which was a compromise. It states that:
  1. We allow identifiers in group names.
  2. Notify the Delegate and Records Coordinator when a name change occurs so that they can help ensure that groups are welcoming.
  3. Increase education opportunities to share experience, strength, and hope on how to be welcoming.
- **Electronic Alateen Meetings**: The WSC adopted the EASBRs (Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavior Requirements) in 2025. Areas may opt in and adopt them. It is optional. GRs would need to vote on it at Assembly.
- **Board of Trustee Applications**: A single Trustee process emerged to replace the dual path Regional Trustee and Trustee At Large application. This will be done on a trial basis starting in 2028. Applications are due June 15.
- **Motions Passed at WSC:** Three motions approved Financials and Annual Report.

Laura also shared pictures from WSO, The Gala, and Archives. There were a few questions asked at the end of her report regarding artificial intelligence, her report on the website, and the Convention. These will be addressed by Coordinators and during the Ask It Basket tomorrow.

The following events took place in the evening following a break by the Assembly.

BREAK/DINNER at 5:30
SERVICE MANUAL SCAVENGER HUNT at 7:00
DR & GR CHAT at 7:35
NIGHT OWL MEETING at 8:45

S U N D A Y, May 17, 2026, 8:30 AM.

GENERAL SESSION RECONVENED (Amanda R.)
Prayer: As We Understood (Val P.)

SPIRITUAL SPEAKER (David B.) A link to the recording may be available on the website at a later date.

(BREAK TAKEN 9:30-10:00)

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS 1-15
The following reports were submitted and are listed on the Area Website: (Districts 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, and 15.) "1 grow and 1 glow" (challenges and successes) were also shared in person and virtually, by many DRs. Some reports were done in person only and included: Districts 1, 3, 10, and 12. A few DRs mentioned having new groups that formed. They also shared about workshops, outreach activities, inventories, and speakers.

COORDINATOR AND LIASION REPORTS (3 mins.)

- Website (Wendy R.) - Report on website and in person. Take a look at the website. Working on a big project to offload documents and is making progress. This will help us be able to do a full back up and make the drive secure.

- Communications (Cheryl L.) - Report on website and in person. Work was done to prepare for Slido voting. She went to 10 district meetings and helped do a lot of practice voting. Feedback is valued. Webex account is being used frequently for Area business. The Virginia Area hosted this year's SERDGT event hybrid, in Virginia Beach and on our Webex account, with assistance from our Area Tech Team.

- LRPC (Debbie P.) – Report on website.

- Literature/Forum (Maria N.) - Report on website and virtually. Thanks to Laura for her information. Deadline for writing shares for new literature is June 30. The E-book rollout is in July. There is a nice display of Forums to see at the hotel. Share about the Forum Magazine with others. WSO also needs more photos. No more pictures of birds are needed though.

- Area Convention (Robynn B.) – Report on website and in person. Convention is in Williamsburg August 6-8, 2027. This will be at a new Venue, adjacent to the Visitors Center. Discount rates are available. Registration opens Jan. 2027. An E-flyer is available along with the report online. See folks at the Convention table if you can help.

- AAPP (Ava B.) – Report is on website and in person. It is an honor and pleasure to serve. May 31 is the recertification date for 2026. Process is going well and we are fully recertified. The ASBRs have been submitted to Officers for review. Background checks have been done on 11 new AMIAS. Contact her for any questions regarding paperwork.

- Alateen (Jill S.) – Reported in person. A successful chat took place on May 3. Will schedule another one in September on Zoom. It was an informal chat for problem solving. WSO is doing a great job with electronic meetings.

- MEAC (Shannon W.) – Reported in person by Wendy. Sign up for MEAC. It is outside of Roanoke and in a great spot.

- Tidewater Service Center (Lee N.) – Reported in person. She is the ASCT Chair. They have a new PO Coordinator who is working on free little libraries. Their budget was approved. There was a great workshop on the "Three As" and it was well attended. They will have Gratitude Breakfast in October. Office is open M-F from 11-3. They still need Alternate Chair and Secretary positions to be filled.

- Northern VA Service Center (Michelle R.) - Report on website.

- Public Outreach (Duane F.) – Report done in person. Has been meeting with others to share great ideas. Workshop is still happening and they had good attendance of 20 people. There is room for 80. Also, went out to dinner afterwards. Ideas shared included: Yard signs, Farmers Markets, Libraries. Lots of literature is being dispersed. You can participate by sharing information with doctors and other professionals. Has gone to many District events.

- Archives (Brett H.) - Report on website and in person. Please see the display at the hotel about the Joy of Service. Join us if you can. We are following the Panel Theme. Working on organizing digital archives with the support of LRPC. This year we are celebrating 75 years of Al-Anon. How about next year we celebrate 65 years of Al-Anon in Virginia?

- Group Records – Report on website and in person. The growing experience was that the website was not sorting participants for finding meetings. Help was received and this has been updated. There have also been some technical challenges with WSO and the Area updating records. Please have patience. Please fill out all the required fields for information submitted by GRs and DRs. Fun facts: Roanoke has the oldest AFG (1952), the oldest Spanish group started in 1994, and the oldest Alateen group is in Rappahannock started in 1999. New groups have been reported.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS 16-29

The following reports were submitted and are listed on the Area Website: (Districts 16-19, 21-24, 27, and 29.) "1 grow and 1 glow" (challenges and successes) were also shared in person and virtually, by many DRs. District 20 reported in person only. There were glows about greater GR participation and numbers. Some districts were well represented at the Assembly. There were successful anniversaries and workshops mentioned. Others reported the challenges of getting greater participation and filling service positions.

ASK IT BASKET:

There were many questions received both from the physical Ask It Basket and online. Amanda, Laura, Kathy, and Duane help to answer.

1. What about changing the wording in the Steps from Him to God? There was a response about protecting the integrity of the program, being a trusted servant to speak up gently and following the Traditions.
2. What is a Service Sponsor? Someone with experience to help guide you. Sharings are needed for the new literature coming out about Sponsorship. Finance sharings are also needed.
3. What are the recommended contributions to Service Arms? It's up to group autonomy. Guidelines are on the website. Use the Links of Service. DRs can help to share information at meetings.
4. How can we use the Al-Anon name? There is a legal department at WSO. Write to them and you will get a response.
5. Can others attend the International Service event in Slovenia? It is the IAGSM (International Al-Anon Global Services Meeting) for Delegates from around the world and it is a closed meeting.
6. How can we encourage more participation? Talk to those who are still out. Invite people to "get in the car". Model for others and bring to the next event.
7. How can we help people afford to come to the Assembly? We have scholarships available. Pay what they can. Take it to your District and then Area.
8. What about unofficial groups? Talk to them about responsibilities to Al-Anon and encourage them to join.
9. Who can attend District Meetings? It is up to District autonomy. Encourage sponsees to attend.
10. Can you clarify the Group Naming Policy? Time was allowed for feedback and then a decision was made this year. Laura is happy to discuss this. (See Delegate Report on the website.)

QUESTIONS:
Many other questions and comments were expressed by those in attendance. Topics included gratitude, more information about scholarships, Alateen Meetings and AMIAS, dealing with a non-Al-Anon meeting, more about keeping the literature pure, Service, Double-Headed Management and Concept Ten, reaching out to underserved communities and working toward more diversity, delegating tasks, children in meetings, Dominance, and Alateens. These were answered by various Officers and Coordinators.

ASSEMBLY REPORT (Ed W.) - Report on Area Website and in person. Please leave the lanyards when you go. Appreciation expressed to all those who attended. There were approximately 150 people who attended this weekend. We try to accommodate as much as possible. Look at the Upcoming Dates on your Agenda for future planning. Thanks for coming and helping your groups. Appreciation was also expressed to the Tech Team. Reach out if you are interested in helping.

7TH TRADITION AND ASSEMBLY SURVEY (Ed. W.)
Please look for the evaluation link on the website and respond.
Baskets were passed for the 7th Tradition during the report.
Raffle was done at the end and three people won books.

CLOSING (Amanda R.)

Thanks to all who made this possible. Especially Ed and our WSO visitors. Thank you for coming. The Links of Service presentation is on the website. The Assembly adjourned at approximately 12:00, closing with The Al-Anon Declaration twice in a circle facing inwards and outwards.

Let it Begin with Me….When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and let it begin with me.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Redstone - Panel 65 Area Secretary

Upcoming Dates of Importance

6/13/2026	**Area Officers Meeting**	**Webex**
8/8/2026	**Fall VAWSC**	**Webex**
10/16-18/2026	**Fall Assembly**	**Midlothian DoubleTree & Webex**
1/16/2027	**Area Officers Meeting**	**Webex**
3/6/2027	**Spring VAWSC**	**Webex**
5/14-16/2027	**Spring Assembly**	**Midlothian DoubleTree & Webex**
6/12/2027	**Area Officers Meeting**	**Webex**
8/14/2027	**Fall VAWSC**	**Webex**
10/15-17/2027	**Fall Election Assembly**	**Midlothian DoubleTree & Webex**

Agenda Acronyms:

AAPP	**Area Alateen Process Person**
ADR	**Alternate District Representative**
AFA	**Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism**
AIS	**Al-Anon Information Service**
AGR	**Alternate Group Representative**
AMIAS	**Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service**
ASC	**Al-Anon Service Center**
CAL	**Conference Approved Literature**
DR	**District Representative**
ESAC	**Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference**
GR	**Group Representative**
GEA	**Global Electronic Area**
IAGSM	**International Al-Anon Global Services Meeting**
LDC	**Literature Distribution Center**
LRPC	**Long Range Planning Committee**
MEAC	**Mid-Eastern Alateen Conference**
SERDGT	**Southeast Regional Delegate Get-Together**
VAWSC	**Virginia Area World Service Committee**
WSO	**World Service Office**
WSC	**World Service Conference**